

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, YO

SUBJECT: KRSKO: AIDE MEMOIRE GIVEN BELOVSKI

REF: BELGRADE 45, STATE 006261

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE CALLED IN
AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI JANUARY 13 AND PROVIDED HIM WITH
FOLLOWING AIDE MEMOIRE ON KRSKO.

BEGIN TEXT. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES REFERS
TO ITS AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 3, 1976, IN WHICH IT
OUTLINED ITS CONCERN ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, AND
TO THE RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA OF
JANUARY 5, 1977.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FULLY APPRECIATES
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THE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF
YUGOSLAVIA HAS SHOWN TOWARD THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION, PARTICULARLY AS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH ITS
EARLY ADHERENCE TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. RECOGNIZING THIS COMMONLY SHARED
OBJECTIVE, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED
IN ITS AIDE-MEMOIRE CERTAIN SUPPLEMENTAL UNDERSTANDINGS

WITH RESPECT TO THE KRSKO REACTOR PROJECT, WHICH WOULD

SERVE AS A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR MUTUAL INTENTIONS TO MINIMIZE THE PROSPECTIVE HAZARDS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

THE RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA INDICATES THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO THE U.S. OBJECTIVE. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSING WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS THE QUESTION OF SAFEGUARDS FOR THE KRSKO NUCLEAR REACTOR AND ITS FUEL AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND OUR EXPERTS TO BELGRADE FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

AS STATED IN OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 3, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO SUPPORT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE KRSKO NUCLEAR PROJECT AND IS HOPEFUL THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND WHICH WILL PERMIT THE PROJECT TO MOVE FORWARD ON A TIMELY BASIS. END TEXT.

2. AFTER READING OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, BELOVSKI COMMENTED THAT HE THOUGHT IT STRUCK JUST THE RIGHT TONE IN AGREEING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE ISSUE. HE CONFIDED THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY DISAPPOINTED IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO OUR AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 3. HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE GOY ASK ITS EMBASSY TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF THE US REQUEST BEFORE ANSWERING WITH A FORMAL, POTENTIALLY IRRITATING, AIDE MEMOIRE.

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3. BELOVSKI THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS, INFORMALLY, AVENUES OF SOLUTION TO THE KRSKO PROBLEM. EMPHASIZING THAT THE SUGGESTION WAS A PERSONAL ONE WHICH DID NOT REPRESENT BELGRADE'S VIEWS, BELOVSKI ASKED WHY WE COULDN'T TRY TO FOLD THE REQUESTED ASSURANCES INTO AN ALREADY EXISTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND YUGOSLAVIA. SPECIFICALLY, HE REFERRED TO THE AGREEMENT FOR ENRICHMENT SERVICES WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE AEC FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND BY THE SLOVENIAN AND CROATIAN POWER ASSOCIATIONS FOR YUGOSLAVIA, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 30, 1975, WHICH CONTAINS CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING RETRANSFER OF THE US FUEL. BELOVSKI ADVISED THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN APPROVED AND RATIFIED BY THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IT WAS, THEREFORE, A BILATERAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.

4. BELOVSKI ALSO OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS SOME UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE EXACT MEANING OF THE US REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES. HE HAD JUST THIS WEEK BEEN DISCUSSING OUR AIDE MEMOIRE

OF DECEMBER 3 WITH THE HEAD OF THE KRSKO PROJECT (DULAR), AND THEY HAD ARGUED WHETHER OR NOT THE REQUESTED ASSUR-

ANCES WERE TO COVER ONLY US-SUPPLIED MATERIALS AND FUEL, OR, AS DULAR HAD INTERPRETED IT, THE ENTIRE KRSKO PROJECT. BELOVSKI WAS QUITE SURE THAT, IF HIS INTERPRETATION WERE CORRECT, THE GOY WOULD HAVE NO REAL PROBLEM IN WORKING OUT A FORMULA WHICH SATISFIED OUR NEEDS.

5. HOYLE (OES/NET) CLARIFIED THE INTENT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE BY EXPLAINING THAT OUR INITIAL AIDE MEMOIRE WAS DESIGNED TO COVER U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS AS WELL AS PLUTONIUM GENERATED FROM THEIR USE. THUS, EVEN IF NON-U.S. SUPPLIED FUEL WERE IRRADIATED IN THE KRSKO REACTOR, MUTUAL AGREEMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED BOTH ON THE REPROCESSING OF THAT FUEL AND ON THE RETRANSFER OF ANY PLUTONIUM WHICH MIGHT BE RECOVERED AS A RESULT OF

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SUCH REPROCESSING. ARMITAGE SAID THAT BELOVSKI'S PERSONAL SUGGESTION OF INTERPRETING THE PREVIOUS AGREEMENT IN A MANNER THAT SATISFIED OUR CURRENT CONCERNS WAS A USEFUL ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT A SOLUTION, AND HE PROMISED TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT'S LAWYERS LOOK INTO THE MATTER. WE WOULD BEAR IN MIND HIS COMMENTS ON THE INTERPRETATION OF OUR AIDE-MEMOIRE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO BELOVSKI'S QUERY AS TO HOW SOON WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND A TEAM TO BELGRADE TO DISCUSS THE KRSKO PROBLEM, ARMITAGE STRESSED THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE URGENCY AND WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO KRSKO PROBLEM. MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE REVIEWED BY INCOMING ADMINISTRATION BEFORE WE COULD BE CLEAR ABOUT NEXT STEPS.

7. EMBASSY MAY PROVIDE BERNARDIC OR OTHER GOY OFFICIAL WITH COPY OF US AIDE MEMOIRE AND EMPHASIZE OUR INTEREST IN PICKING UP GOY PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS PROBLEM. WHILE WE ARE AT PRESENT UNABLE TO SUGGEST A DEFINITE DATE FOR TALKS, YOU MAY ASSURE HIM THAT WE CONSIDER MATTER TO BE URGENT. INASMUCH AS BELOVSKI'S COMMENTS (PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4) WERE "PERSONAL" WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO RAISE THEM AT THIS TIME WITH GOY OFFICIALS IN BELGRADE, PARTICULARLY BEFORE WE HAVE HAD CHANCE TO REVIEW THEM. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE INTERESTED IN ANY INDICATION OF GOY CONFUSION OVER SCOPE OF OUR PROPOSED ASSURANCES.

8. IF EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION, ZAGREB MAY PROVIDE COPY OF US AIDE MEMOIRE TO SIROTKOVIC AS EVIDENCE OF OUR INTEREST IN RESOLVING THIS ISSUE.

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